

SCHOOL AFFAIRS DISCUSSED BUT NO SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS RESULT

THREE HOUR SESSION DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF STATISTICS—CRITICISM FREELY OFFERED BUT NO REMEDY NAMED

COMMITTEE WILL INVESTIGATE

"Keeping Budget Within Means of Taxpayers to Pay," Only Suggestion — Superintendent's Salary Apparently the Principal Bone of Contention.

After a three hour discussion of school taxes at the Commercial club rooms last night the net result was the appointment of a committee of seven to examine the budget voted for next year to determine what, if anything, could be done to reduce the operating costs of the Ontario schools.

President Van Potten called the meeting to order and explained that it had been called at the request of the school board for the purpose of learning what the people desired. He then called upon Judge W. W. Wood, chairman of the board for a statement.

Judge Wood explained the position of the board briefly to be that they desired to do what the people wanted; that if the people wanted some of the departments eliminated, the board wanted to know which departments; that if the people wanted to eliminate the high school for a year, they would do that; but that the board could not act on the criticisms which were going about and which were so vague that the board had no knowledge of what really was wanted.

"There are some departments which some of the people think essential, and there are others which they do not. What some people want others would eliminate, said Mr. Wood. "So we asked that this meeting be called so that we could talk the matter over with the business men to get their idea of what to do, and to secure some specific idea of what the people desire. We want the freest consideration. Our feelings will not be hurt, for though we have done what we deemed right and best without pay for our work, we are willing to hear the opinions of the public and want that criticism to be candid and frank."

Following Judge Wood, the chairman called on Superintendent J. M. McDonald who presented in detail a comparative study of the costs of the Ontario schools with those of Nampa, Caldwell, Nyssa, Payette and Vale. Copies of this schedule revealed that Ontario's minimum for grade teachers is below any of the others, being \$990, to Payette's \$1080, Weiser's \$1080, Vale's \$1170, Caldwell's \$1020; and Nampa's \$1200.

The maximum salaries of grade teachers in the districts named was shown to be: Ontario \$1125; Payette \$1300; Weiser \$1200; Vale \$1215; Caldwell \$1200; and Nampa \$1500.

The enrollment of the grade schools was shown to be: Payette, 700; Weiser, 600; Vale, 251; Caldwell, 925; Ontario, 526; making the average number of pupils per teacher in the grades as follows: Payette, 35; Weiser, 33.3; Vale, 31; Caldwell, 35.5 and Ontario 35.1, the number of teachers being: Payette, 20; Weiser 18; Vale, 8; Caldwell 26 and Ontario, 15.

For the high schools the various districts presented the following data: minimum salaries for teachers: Payette, \$1350; Weiser, \$1260; Vale, \$1140; Caldwell \$1400, and Ontario \$1350. Maximum salaries Payette \$1500, Weiser \$1440, Vale \$1500, Caldwell \$1600, Nampa \$1700, Ontario \$1630. Special teachers: Payette \$1800, Weiser \$1750, Vale \$2000, Ontario \$1710, \$1800, and \$2200.

The statement also revealed that the number of pupils per teacher in the high school cited above is: Payette 26.5, Weiser 27.5, Vale 22.5, Caldwell 28 and Ontario 25.1.

Departments Criticised
After a general discussion was

(Continued on Last Page)

GIRLS CLUB TO SUBSTITUTE DANCE FOR IRISH PLAY

The Ontario Girls Club met at the home of Mrs. Dalton Biggs Tuesday evening. Among the questions of importance which were taken up at this meeting, was that of whether or not the girls would continue rehearsals for the play. It was decided that owing to the sickness of so many of the cast that the play would not be given at this time. It was decided however, that a dance would be given in its place, and the Monday following Easter Sunday has been set as the date. This dance will be given as a library benefit for the purpose of securing furnishings for the new room which was recently completed in the basement.

The entertainment committee of the evening, Miss Luella Callin and Miss Blanche McDonald, kept the merriment at a high pitch, when they required each member to become a dancer and do the most foolish stunt of which she was capable. Dainty refreshments were served, and a very pleasant evening spent.

COMMISSION DOES NOT APPROVE ROTATION

Power Company Told that Rotation if Affected Will Reduce Service and Thus Increase Rates—Must Have Hearing

In an order received today from the Public Service Commission relating to the proposal of the Idaho Power company to put a clause into its new contracts giving the company the right to rotate power between users, which denies the company that right until after a hearing has been held on that subject.

In the finding which was signed by Commissioner H. H. Corey, the commission says in part:

"We are therefore of the opinion that what may be a reasonable charge for rotation of service is a matter that cannot be determined at this time. If the actual application of rotation, which must be equitably distributed as between the consumers affected, should occur before the completion of the valuation of the Idaho Power Co's. properties and just and reasonable rates fixed by this Commission on a valuation basis, a proper charge for such modified service will be determined as an emergency matter when the amount and effect of such modifications are actually known. These facts may be determined at a public hearing in the matter."

"Should there occur the very remote possibility of the necessity of extension of the restricted service to a point where serious damage to crops would result, and where users have taken reasonable precautions to prevent such effect, the matter can be adjusted by proper procedure before this Commission."

"For the above reasons the Commission does not approve of the provision that 'Such rotation and reduction of service shall not operate to change the service rate as set forth in said contract of 1919.'"

"In our opinion the same should be excluded from the contract."

Miss Elsie Walters, little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Walters has been quite seriously ill. Her sickness was caused from a blow on the back of her head which was received while playing at school. For a time little hope was held for her recovery, but she is now getting better.

John Rutherford was taken to the hospital Tuesday afternoon for a second operation on his foot, which was injured last fall. It was necessary to remove one toe, due to infection of the bone. He is now at the home of Mrs. A. E. Rutherford for convalescence.

The next meeting of the Congregational Ladies Aid will be held next Wednesday afternoon April 5th at the home of Mrs. Walter Cobick.

J. D. Stone of Tonasket, Washington, is visiting old friends in Ontario this week, and looking after business interests. Mr. Stone was an Ontario boy for many years. He reports that his mother, Mrs. Henry Beier, who is living with him at present is getting along fine.

NYSSA SCHOOL WARRANTS SOLD TO ITS CITIZENS

Action of People Prevents Closing of Nyssa Schools—Bonds Having been Questioned Board Takes Alternative Course

Because of the patriotic attitude of the citizens of Nyssa the teachers of the Nyssa schools will not have to take warrants which they could not cash for the balance of the year, and as the result, of course, the Nyssa schools will continue to function.

When a legal firm from Portland declared that it would be necessary for the courts to pass upon the validity of emergency bond issues such as that recently approved by the voters of School District No. 26, the bonds could not be sold. This placed the Nyssa district in an embarrassing position. To keep the schools open and pay the teachers, the school board determined to put the problem up to the business men and citizens of the community. This they did on Tuesday of this week and \$7600 of the district warrants were purchased during the day. This assures sufficient funds to complete the school year.

This, however, does not solve the problems of the district for the coming year, says E. M. Dean, one of the board who was in Ontario yesterday. "We will have to reduce the salaries of our teachers materially and otherwise secure a reduction in expenses," said Mr. Dean.

H. H. TUNNY LEAVES FOR PARTS UNKNOWN

Prominent Merchant and Sportsman Writes Bank Telling of False Statements on Which Credit Was Extended—Leaves Family Here.

Leaving behind him many unpaid bills and a note for several thousand dollars supposed to have been secured by cattle, when in reality he had no cattle, H. H. Tunny, left Ontario on Monday March 29, and as yet has not been heard from.

The first intimation that he had gone for good was secured by his business associates Frank P. Ryan and George Reihisen, and A. L. Cockrum of the First National Bank on Monday of this week from his wife who called them and gave them letters which she had received from her husband to deliver to them.

In these letters Mr. Tunny admitted to the bank that he had no stock such as described in the mortgage he had given to the bank to secure a loan for several thousand dollars, and which had been renewed from time to time for several years. He admitted that he had made false statements on which the credit had been extended.

Beside the account which he owed the bank and which was secured by other property which will cover a large portion of it, he left an accumulation of accounts with business firms of the city in various amounts.

Mr. Tunny's leaving will not affect the Ontario Meat & Grocery company for the remaining partners have arranged with creditors of the firm to adjust the situation satisfactorily.

The departure of Mr. Tunny, leaving his family here to face the difficult situation, came as a distinct shock for he had been prominent in many affairs of the community serving at various times on the board of directors of the Commercial club, the Malheur county fair, and in the Knights of Columbus. He promoted many athletic events and ran a string of race horses and one time owned some of the finest thoroughbred cattle ever brought to this section.

Friends of Mr. Tunny are of the belief that it was through the losses suffered in the race horse game that brought on his difficulties. He was known as a good loser as well as a good winner, and while it was felt that he might be in difficulties he would make good with a turn of fortune. It is believed that he suffered losses more than he realized and that when the bank arranged to go and count the cattle on which its mortgage was based he decided that his string was played out and so left.

He first left here early in March for Pendleton where he went to sell some horses. On his return he evaded an engagement to go to Mc-

HOMEDALE BRANCH WILL BE EXTENDED TO PICKLE BUTTE

Railroad Officials Announce Deal by Which Rails will be Laid Through Gem District in Time for Crop Moving this Season.

Recent accounts in Boise papers tell of the completion of arrangements between the ranchers of the Gem district south of Homedale and the officials of the Oregon Short Line by which the Homedale branch will be extended seven and one half miles to Pickle Butte.

According to the deal made with the ranchers they are to donate the right-of-way and will contract for the moving of dirt for the grade of 8 cents per yard. Already arrangements have been made for a large number of teams to start work on the grade.

It is announced that the grade will be finished and rails laid so that the road will be ready for service during the crop moving season this summer and fall.

LODGE NEWS

Last Wednesday evening the Boomerang Encampment of the Payette Oddfellows Lodge, visited the Ontario Lodge. The Royal Purple Degree was conferred on seven candidates, after which a banquet was served to 200 guests.

CONVENTION ADDRESS INSPIRES W. C. T. U.

Mrs. Maude Perkins of New York is Principal Speaker at Meetings Held Here—High School Musical Organizations Present Program

The W. C. T. U. convention which was held in the Presbyterian church on Tuesday in honor of Mrs. Maude Perkins, National worker for the young people's branch of the Union, was a very great success. Two Idaho Unions were represented but owing to the Idaho state convention, held in Caldwell this week, there was not a large outside attendance. Mrs. Perkins gave a very instructive talk both morning and afternoon to the members. At the afternoon meeting Mrs. Paul Seligman and Mrs. A. Jaquith sang. Luncheon was served at noon in the church.

The evening meeting held at the Dreamland theatre was an entire success, in spite of the inadequate lighting of the building. The Ontario High school orchestra and boys' and girls' glee clubs assisted in the evening program. Much credit is due Miss Helen Dunstone for her willing cooperation and the members of the Union are indeed grateful to her. Mrs. Perkins, a very able speaker, gave a very interesting talk on the Young People's work. Little Miss Helen Divin sang.

After the meeting the glee clubs and orchestra were entertained at the W. E. Lees home. The hostesses of the evening were girls whose mothers are W. C. T. U. workers. Dainty refreshments were served and a very enjoyable evening spent.

Mrs. Burchardt has been quite ill for the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Fry and family of Emmett, spent Sunday in Ontario with Mrs. Fry's mother, Mrs. T. B. Flier.

Mrs. Joseph Fingler returned Saturday from a short visit in Nampa and Boise.

Call where his cattle were alleged to have been, and when pressed by the bank officials made several excuses. He was in town on Saturday March 18, and for a short time on Monday March 20, leaving some time that day. It is believed that since he is a Canadian, he has probably gone north. Efforts to locate him have so far failed to secure any clue.

As the result of the revelations of the tangle in her husband's affairs have left his wife almost prostrated for the first intimation she had of anything wrong came in the letters received Monday.

His business associates have grasped their problem and have developed in their affairs and plans already made give assurance that they will be able to put their business on a solid footing and thus protect all creditors.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DENIES REQUEST TO CURTAIL TRAIN SERVICE

BOARD WANTS TO KNOW IF PEOPLE WANT FAIR

Do the farmers and business men want a county fair this fall? This is the question which the members of the fair board would like to have answered.

At a recent meeting of the board which is composed of the following: Ivan E. Aakes of Ontario, V. T. Herrett of Vale and V. V. Hickox of Kingman Colony, no decision as to the procedure for this fall was determined upon. It was decided that an effort be made to ascertain the desire of the people regarding the holding of the fair and to await some expression from the business men and ranchers.

Just how this expression will be gained has not been determined but it is a subject which the people should consider and express themselves in meetings held or in letters to the board.

HEAD LETTUCE ACREAGE WILL BE VERY LARGE

Growers Join Idaho Producers Union to Market Cooperatively—Total Acreage in Snake River Valley may Reach 2000—In Malheur County 500 Acres.

Present indications are that the acreage of head lettuce in Malheur county this year will be not less than 400 and it may exceed 500. This is pretty well distributed over the Ontario, Nyssa, Adrian, Vale and Dead Ox Flat sections of the county. The average number of acres which each man will undertake is about 3. A good yield of lettuce for this section is supposed to be 200 to 400 crates and it is estimated by reliable persons who have had experience, that the grower will net at least one dollar per crate delivered to the packing shed. While the cost of production is high and the labor requirements heavy, it is generally expected that the crop will leave the grower a good profit for his trouble, which is a real consideration with the farmer at this time of unprofitable crop production.

At any rate, most of the growers are going at it conservatively with the idea of learning the game without asking too much. The number of persons who will grow a small acreage will be in the neighborhood of 150. A few are intending to plant larger acreages. Most of the growers have already joined the Idaho Producers Union, the new cooperative association being formed under the auspices of the Canyon County Farm Bureau upon recommendation of a large committee of practical lettuce growers appointed at a great mass meeting held in Caldwell last January. The Malheur county farm bureau and the agricultural agent have been cooperating with the Canyon county people, as has also the bureaus of several other Snake River Valley counties. About 1500 acres have been signed in the association and this is expected to soon reach 3000 acres extending from Ashton to Weiser. The membership for Malheur county is now considerably more than one hundred growers with more coming in every day. Just as soon as the membership is about completed, each shipping point will organize a local.

There will probably be at least four locals in Malheur county, one each at Vale, Adrian, Ontario and Oregon Slope. The growers of the Nyssa community have formed an organization, but have not decided whether they will affiliate with the cooperative association or sign with some private commission house. W. L. Gibson was elected chairman of the Nyssa lettuce growers and it is generally understood that he favors a small community organization. However, at a recent meeting, after listening to a most thorough explanation of every detail of the proposed plan of operation by county agent McCall of Canyon county and others, including G. W. Lattig, chairman of the farm bureau committee, the growers went on record almost unanimously for the large association. At a later meeting, held last Saturday night, the Cherrylane's Company had representatives present

ATTENTION CALLED TO VOLUME OF BUSINESS FOR MAINLINE WHICH ORIGINATES ON BRANCHES FOR WHICH NO CREDIT IS GIVEN

LOWER RATES WOULD HELP

Company Told It is Overlooking Tonnage Possibilities By Not Extending Lines to Burns and Timber Belt—Opinion is Lengthy

Denying the application of the Oregon Short Line for a curtailment of service on the branch lines running from Ontario to Crane and Ontario to Brogan, the Public Service Commission in a lengthy opinion and ruling exhaustively discusses the railroad situation in Southeastern Oregon. The opinion was received by the Argus yesterday for publication. It was signed by Commissioners Williams and Corey.

The opinion which covers nine closely written pages in an exhaustive study of the railroad situation as it affects all this section, and in effect tells the railroad company that it has taken the wrong course by which to cure its ills.

Among other pertinent facts discussed is that in their showing the railroad officials have not given proper credit to the earnings of the branch lines for the proportion of earnings secured by the long main line haul of traffic which found its origin on the branch lines. Also no credit was given for the switching work which the branch line crews perform here in Ontario, at Payette and Nyssa.

Attention is also called to the company's exhibits which did not take into consideration the heavy freight moving months while considerable discussion is given to the fact that the whole the Union Pacific system is operating at a profit in excess of that guaranteed under the 1920 transportation act.

After discussing the tonnage possibilities of the timber holdings in Harney county and the tonnage possibilities from Harney county agricultural lands when developed the commission calls attention to the fact that the railroad company has made no effort to assist in this development by extending its lines there.

The commission calls attention, too, to the fact that prior to the construction of the line the vast territory now served by the road was furnished a daily mail service by stage. This would be reduced to an every other day service and would in the commission's opinion be a backward step.

After calling attention to the lack of automobile competition and other features of the railroad business in this section the findings of the commission and its order denies the request of the railroad company. For the information of its readers the Argus will print the order in detail next week.

who explained that firm's plan for marketing lettuce. Their contract was subjected to much criticism and did not find favor with many of the growers.

The Idaho Producers Union, the new cooperative association, will be perfected as soon as the membership appears to be about completed by the filing of articles of incorporation, calling a meeting to adopt by-laws, the election of a board of nine members chosen by zones in accordance with the membership and the organization of this board by election from among its members the officers of the association. The board will then proceed to make the necessary arrangements for the conduct of the association, among these being the matter of arranging for a sales agent. In the later matter of the board will be morally bound to contract along lines already agreed upon by the organization committee, with the California Vegetable Union, a large private commission firm now doing business for a score or more of potato and vegetable associations in California. The board will not be bound to accept any particular proposition however, unless it is reasonable to do so, it being merely the understanding on which the organization is being formed that the board will make such a contract to be binding for one year only.